



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Paul District

# Information Paper

## Flood Control: Wisconsin River, Portage, Wis.



*Reconstructed levees at Portage, Wis., now meet state floodplain criteria.*

### Contact

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### Location/Description

A serious flood potential exists for the city of Portage, located on the Wisconsin River in south central Wisconsin about 35 miles north of Madison, Wis. Levees built at Portage during the late 1800s and early 1900s do not meet current federal or state standards. During flood events, large amounts of seepage and extensive emergency efforts demonstrated the need for levee reconstruction.

The completed levee system at Portage meets the state of Wisconsin's floodplain criteria of 100-year flood plus three feet. The improvements include three miles of upgraded levee, a railroad closure, utility modifications, aesthetic and recreation features, cultural resource mitigation and modifications to the existing flood warning system. To maintain interbasin flow to the Fox River, Canadian Pacific Railway facilities must be altered. Alternatives being considered are a bridge on the mainline track or raising a nearby spur track and installation of an impervious blanket along the track.

### Status

The Project Cooperation Agreement between the city of Portage and the Federal government was executed in October 1996. Construction of flood protection is complete. All that remains to complete the project is to construct changes on the Canadian Pacific Railway during the summer of 2001. A project dedication date has not been set.

### Project Sponsor

City of Portage.

### Additional

The St. Paul District provided project certification data to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in January 2000.

### Authority

Section 401(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986.

### Fiscal

Flood control features are cost shared 75 percent federal and 25 percent non-federal. Recreation features are cost shared 50 percent federal and 50 percent non-federal. Operation and maintenance costs are 100 percent non-federal.

Federal Cost	\$8,610,000
Non-federal Cost	\$3,050,000
Total Cost	\$11,660,000